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VZCZCXRO4284
PP RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHMO #2632/01 2471313
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 031313Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9810
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHXD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 002632

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RUS, FOR EEB/ESC/IEC GALLOGLY AND WRIGHT
EUR/CARC, SCA (GALLAGHER, SUMAR)
DOE FOR FREDRIKSEN, HEGBORG, EKIMOFF

EO 12958 DECL: 09/02/2018
TAGS EPET, ENRG, ECON, PGOV, PHUM, RS

SUBJECT: XXXXXXXXXXX
TRANSPARENCY

Classified By: DCM Eric S. Rubin for Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

SUMMARY

¶1. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX is seeking information about the companies' relations with shadowy and reportedly Kremlin-connected oil trader Gunvor. XXXX

"TOTALLY NON-TRANSPARENT"

¶2. (C) A primary and very large hurdle for those who analyze Russia's oil and gas sector is the dearth of reliable information. News reports a

¶3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX. Both XXXXXXXXXXX told us that the rising and reportedly massive volumes of trade through secretive Swiss-based oil trading

¶4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX said he believes that XXXXXXXXXXX and he is frustrated that nobody in Russia seems to care. According to XXXXXXXXXXX and X

¶5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXX Transneft, the primarily government-owned oil transportation monopoly. XXXXXXXXXXX information related to 13 bi

¶6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX

WHO OWNS RUSSIA'S FOURTH LARGEST OIL COMPANY?

¶7. (C) Of the companies XXXXXXXXXXX one stands out for its secrecy -- Surgutneftegaz. As with Gunvor, the company is rumored to be one of Puti

¶8. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX added that all requests for information from Surgutneftegaz are routinely denied. After numerous requests and many instance

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NO ILLUSIONS OF WINNING, BUT SUITS TO CONTINUE
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¶9. (C) XXXXXXXXXXX-------

COMMENT

¶10. (C) Opacity is commonplace in Russian business, especially in the sensitive oil sector, and it is a major hindrance to modernization. With